

politics is someone well known to many of us, my predecessor, General Ben Blaz, who was elected to the Congress after retiring from the Marines. As a former Member of Congress, Ben will be escorting his comrades to this chamber where deliberations and decisions were made that committed them to combat in Korea and Vietnam.

There is a marvelous irony in my having the privilege to call my colleagues' attention to the contributions that these courageous men of the Corps have made to our country, both in war and peace. During the Spanish-American War, a young man from Gastonia, North Carolina joined the Marines and was part of the contingent that was sent to Guam to formally occupy the island. He was so enchanted by the island and, I hasten to add, its lovely *senoritas*, that he chose to stay in Guam. In time, he married a native girl and started a family. His name was James Underwood. He was my grandfather.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for extending me the honor of paying tribute to these veterans and retirees of the Corps and to salute them, in behalf of our grateful nation, on the Golden Anniversary of their commissioning as officers of Marines.

(Roster of members/wives of deceased members of the 11th SBC Marines celebrating the 50th Anniversary of their commissioning as Officers of Marines, May 3-5, 2001):

Robert Altick, Al Bailey, Robert Beezer, Gene Benbow, Charles Bentzen, John Bickley, Ben Blaz, Ted Brothers, Charles Clifford, John Connor, Frank Delaney, and Bill Diederich.

Tom Fallon, Dale Faust, Marshall Figgatt, Benis Frank, Ced Gifford, Bill Gilwee, Fred Grube, (Mrs.) Don Helgeson, Maurice Heartfield, Bill Keating, John Keck, and Paul Kortepeter.

Bill Kyle, Tom Lamb, Bob Land, Bob Lavine, (Mrs.) James Lindsey, John Lussenhop, Andy McDonald, Harold Marshall, Joe Molitoris, Gene Moyers, (Mrs.) Dick Norlin, and Larry O'Nele.

Herb Oxnam, Dick Paschal, Jordan Peck, Hank Pruitt, Tom Qualls, Stan Rauh, Chayne Stinemetz, Dick Stone, Noval Stephens, Speros Thomaidis, Peter Walker, and Stan Wilson.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2001

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, due to recent death of a close friend I was unable to attend votes this week. Had I been here I would have made the following votes:

Rollcall No. 85—"Yes," No. 86—"Yes," and No. 87—"No."

NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

HON. RONNIE SHOWS

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2001

Mr. SHOWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a proud member of the Congressional Autism

Caucus to remind my colleagues that the month of April is National Autism Awareness Month, and that tomorrow, Mississippi, and many other states will recognize April 27th as National Autism Day. The ribbon that I wear is the International symbol for autism, symbolizing the complexity of the disorder. The different colors and shapes represent the diversity of the people and families living with autism, while the brightness of the ribbon signals hope—the hope to be found through increasing research, resources and awareness.

This month gives us a unique opportunity to celebrate the progress we have made in understanding Autism, and the goals we must continue to fulfill. This century we have come a long way in overturning the misconceptions of what autism is. We know that autism is a developmental disability that over 400,000 people in the United States are estimated to have. We know that it is four times more likely to be diagnosed in boys as in girls. We know that there are many degrees of severity of autism, but that all autistic people tend to exhibit deficient social behavior, language and cognitive development. What we still don't know though, is what causes Autism.

Last year, Congress passed landmark bipartisan legislation, the Children's Health Act of 2000, which was signed into law last October. Within this legislation were major provisions for the creation of five regional "centers for excellence" for research into autism, administered the National Institute for Mental Health, as well as education programs on autism for the community. The bi-partisan spirit of cooperation, fueled by the thousands of involved parents, teachers, and doctors in the autism community, enabled us to do what we were intended to do in Congress; to provide a voice and resources for those most in need of advocacy.

So, what do we do now? As Congress looks forward to debating education legislation, we should be vigilant in our support for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. In 1975, the U.S. Congress passed the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, also known as IDEA, mandating that local school districts provide appropriate education to students with special needs. Understanding that this could be a costly endeavor, Congress agreed to fund up to 40 percent of the average per pupil expenditure. However, to date, Congress has only provided States with about 14 percent of the funds promised.

I have listened to countless parents of children with disabilities in my district talk about the struggles and challenges they have in getting their schools to properly educate their children. The years of frustration parents have endured in attempting to get their children appropriate assistance is disgraceful. Parents, particularly those of children who have special needs, should have strong partnerships with their schools. Instead, due to an often appalling lack of resources, our parents and teachers sometimes find themselves having adversarial relationships. This helps no one, least of all the child, whom our schools seek to educate.

National Autism month reminds us to reflect on our responsibility to do a better job of keeping the IDEA promise. As members of Congress, we should celebrate how far we have come in meeting the needs of children with disabilities, but remember that our job is far from over, and our goals far from being fulfilled.

TRIBUTE TO HON. DOUGLAS "TIM" JAMERSON—A GREAT FLORIDIAN AND A GREAT AMERICAN

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2001

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the late Douglas L. "Tim" Jamerson, the former Florida Education Commissioner, Labor Secretary, and state legislator who died of cancer this past Saturday at age 53.

I will not recount his incalculable, enormous contributions, other than to say that without Doug Jamerson, Florida would be much less than it is today. Without Doug Jamerson Florida would not be one of the greatest state's in this union.

Mr. Jamerson understood that he was the first African American to serve as Florida's Commissioner of Education. He understood that gave him an obligation beyond his own race. He understood that Floridians would be looking at what he did very carefully, but he also understood that his role was that of doing what he could to improve education in a far more universal sense. Through his many efforts—as Education Commissioner, Labor Secretary, and State Legislator, guidance counselor and friend, he improved the quality of life for millions of Floridians, many more who were not Black, and not the least of them women.

Doug Jamerson, throughout his life, reminded us that Florida is a state of opportunity, and America is a country of great promise, but that that promise and opportunity has not yet been totally fulfilled. Doug reminded us all that we all have a duty to help our state and our nation fulfill its true promise.

The words of the great poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow in his eulogy to Charles Sumner, apply equally to Doug Jamerson. Wadsworth said:

Were a star quenched on high for ages would its light still traveling downward from the sky shine on our mortal sight so when a great man dies for years beyond our ken the light behind lies upon the paths of men.

Douglas Jamerson is a uniquely special individual who was a thoughtful and a principled public servant whose life will serve as a reminder of everything that we must all strive to become. He has taught us all, that its not how many years you live, but what you accomplish in the years you have. Doug Jamerson accomplished much in his 53 years.

HONORING SUSAN MUSGRAVE AND THE LOS ALAMOS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2001

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, when a deadly fire devastated Los Alamos, New Mexico, and surrounding communities in May, 2000, Susan Musgrave, the executive director of the Los Alamos Chamber of Commerce stepped up to the challenge of helping the community recover and rebuild. There are